



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

April 3 – 9

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03.04

- The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić arrived on a visit to Ukraine. The key topic of the visit was the issue of the **role of the Council of Europe in overcoming the consequences of Russian aggression**. With the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emine Dzhaparova they discussed the prospect of creating a **register of losses** caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, as well as the leading role of the Council of Europe in the creation of a **Special Tribunal** to bring Russia to justice for the crime of aggression.
- **German Vice-Chancellor** Robert Habeck has arrived on an unannounced visit to Ukraine. The agenda includes the **restoration of Ukraine** and cooperation in the **energy sector**, informs Spiegel.
- **4 MiG-29** fighter aircraft have already arrived in Ukraine – State Secretary of the Office of the President of the Republic of **Poland**.
- Ukraine received around **USD 2.7 billion** from the **IMF** – this is the first transfer of the **4-year support program** for USD 15.6 billion, reported the Head of the National Bank of Ukraine.
- **The Netherlands** is allocating an **assistance package** to Ukraine in the amount of **EUR 274 billion**, informed by the government. The money will be directed in particular to humanitarian aid, restoration of hospitals and infrastructure, support of agriculture, and non-lethal weapons.
- According to the head of the Danish defense ministry Paulsen, **Denmark and Norway** have agreed on the **joint supply of 155-mm artillery shells** to Ukraine. The defense forces will receive 8 thousand pcs of ammo, which can be used with the Danish CAESAR artillery systems.

04.04

- The Pentagon informed that **the USA** is providing Ukraine with a **new package of military assistance** in the amount of **USD 2.6 bln**. The package will include, particularly, the missiles for Patriot, HIMARS, and NASAMS, artillery and tank ammo, vehicles, and other.
- **Norway** has imposed new **sanctions against Russia**, they mirror the 10th package of EU sanctions. 87 persons and 34 legal entities fell under the restrictions. The country extended the obligations to **freeze the assets** of Russians and expanded the **ban on the export of dual-value goods**. We are also talking about some construction goods, aviation industry goods, and technology

05.04

- President Zelenskyi and the First Lady arrived in **Poland** on the first **official visit**. Zelenskyi met with President Duda and Prime Minister Morawiecki, held a meeting with business representatives, rescuers, and volunteers, and delivered a speech in the evening. During the press conference, a new Polish **military assistance package** for Ukraine was announced. It will include MiGs, Rosomak armored personnel carriers, Rak self-propelled mortars, Piorun MANPADS, and other weapons. Zelenskyi added that Polish tanks "are already on the battlefield".

05.04

- Besides, within the visit, one of the Ukroboronprom enterprises and Polish Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa have concluded an agreement about the **joint production of tank shells** of 125 mm caliber.
- The United World Wrestling (UWW) has **lifted the suspension of athletes from Russia and Belarus** from international competitions. The decision to return athletes from Russia and Belarus was made before the start of the European Wrestling Championships, which will be held from 17 to 23 April in Zagreb. This is the **third Olympic sport** to announce the admission of athletes from the Russian Federation to the competition **after new recommendations of the IOC**.
- **50 countries** have **condemned Russia** for organizing a meeting of the UN Security Council regarding the alleged legal grounds for the abduction of Ukrainian children from the temporarily occupied territories, according to a joint statement of these countries. Great Britain blocked the broadcast of the speech of the **Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights Lvova-Belova** on UN resources, calling on her to answer for her actions in The Hague. Earlier, the ICC **issued arrest warrants for Putin and Lvova-Belova**. They are suspected of illegally deporting and relocating Ukrainian children.

06.04

- IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi visited Kaliningrad, Russia, where he met with Russian officials to discuss the **situation at the occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant**. Earlier, on March 29, the IAEA Director General visited Zaporizhzhia NPP directly, where members of the IAEA permanent mission, which had been operating at the plant since September 2022, rotated. During the visit, Grossi noted that the **situation** at the power plant has **deteriorated**, and **military activity around the facility has intensified** in recent months.
- President Zelenskyi during the visit to Poland met with the majors of **Rzeszów, Przemyśl, Lublin, and Chelm** and presented them with the **"Savior City" award** for "the unprecedented support provided to Ukrainians in the most difficult time, when millions of Ukrainian citizens were forced to seek salvation from the war.."
- French President Macron visited Beijing and met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The main topic of the talks was Russia's war against Ukraine. Macron called on Xi Jinping to **"bring Russia to its senses"** and promote the resumption of **peace talks**, and Xi Jinping, in particular, opposed the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

07.04

- **Brazilian President** Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyi "can't want everything" and **suggested Kyiv cede Crimea to Russia** to end the war. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine replied that Ukraine does not trade its territories, and any mediation efforts to restore peace in Ukraine should be based on respect for sovereignty and full restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.



Military positions

- ✓ The Russian army continues to concentrate its main efforts on conducting offensive operations towards Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Mariinka.
- ✓ Towards Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, Russian forces continue to build defensive lines and positions and fortify them.
- ✓ Towards Volyn, Polissia, Chernihiv, and Kharkiv, the operational situation remains without significant changes, and no signs of the formation of enemy offensive groups have been detected.
- ✓ For the past week, there have been statements from the Russian Federation about the 'legal seizure' of Bakhmut, and the Ukrainian authorities have agreed a retreat from the city. Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of Ukraine conducted counterattacks near Avdiivka and Mariinka to prevent encirclement.
- ✓ There is still a threat of launching missiles and air strikes throughout the territory of Ukraine.

03.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ukrainian defense plant Maiak reported that Ukraine began to produce aviation fragmentation weapons for units of the Defense Forces. According to the report, these are ammunition for an unmanned aircraft complex of fragmentation action. Both types of ammunition are relatively compact and light: OBP-23.1 weighs 1 kilogram and is capable of hitting targets within a radius of 11 meters; OBP-23.05 weighs 500 grams, and the guaranteed damage zone is 4.5 meters in radius. ➤ On April 3, 12 Ukrainians returned from captivity to Ukraine. According to the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, among them, five were seriously injured. Two freed civilians were held hostage by the Russians. One person is from Lyptsi in Kharkiv oblast, the other one is from Mariupol.
04 - 05.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On April 4, Russians used a new tactic during a night drone attack on Odesa oblast. During the massive attack, the Russian Federation forces launched UVAs from the eastern coast of the Sea of Azov at a low enough altitude that the Ukrainian air defense forces could not see them. Therefore, the air alert was not announced ahead of time, but already during the air defense operation. In addition, previously the Russian forces used up to 14 Shaheds, this time they used 17 at once. ➤ The ISW says that the Armed Forces of Ukraine conducted a counterattack near Avdiivka. Ukrainian forces probably launched a counterattack northeast of Avdiivka. Geolocation footage published on April 2 shows that the Ukrainian army has probably retaken positions northwest of Novoselivka (17 km northeast of Avdiivka) and moved closer to the settlement. ➤ The ISW analysts refuted the data that the Wagnerites captured the Bakhmut-1 railway station, as there is no visual confirmation of this. They also did not confirm that the Russians captured the central part of Bakhmut.
07.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Russian army continues to concentrate its main efforts on conducting offensive actions towards Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Mariinka. During the day, Russians launched 5 missile and 18 air strikes, and carried out 53 MLRS attacks on the positions of the Ukrainian troops and the civilian infrastructure of populated areas. ➤ According to the report of the Institute for the Study of War, Russians lost 4,000 soldiers near Avdiivka last week. Analysts note that the Russian forces don't have a shortage of artillery ammunition in areas where offensive operations are preferred. ➤ The British intelligence agency reports that Russia has redeployed additional troops to the Bakhmut district and began to use artillery more effectively in this area, achieving some success. The Russian army very likely moved to the center of the city and seized the western bank of the Bakhmutka River. According to preliminary data, Ukraine's key supply route No. 0506 to the west of the city is under serious threat. Russians probably fortified the area and began to use more artillery. ➤ During the full-scale invasion, Russia fired about 4,750 missiles at Ukraine worth \$16 billion – Forbes. The Russian Federation has almost completely exhausted the reserves of the Kalibr and X555/101 missiles. The publication notes that exhaustion is probably the main reason for the more expensive use of the Kh-47 Kinzhal missile. However, Russia still has thousands of S-300 short-range missiles, which hit at a distance of up to 200 km and destroy front-line towns. ➤ Andrii Yusov, representative of the Defence Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, said on the air of a national telethon that the so-called "classified military documents" about the plans of the Armed Forces of Ukraine leaked online are a forgery and a special operation of the Russian special services. Andrii Yusov added that there will be a counteroffensive, and the main plans of the enemy will be seen and felt on the battlefield. He also suggested that the Russians may have forged documents to disrupt or slow down Western aid to Ukraine.
08.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the day, the Russian military launched 2 missile and 34 air strikes, and conducted more than 36 MLRS attacks. More than 35 enemy attacks were repulsed by Ukrainian defenders in the Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and Mariinka directions. ➤ Towards Bakhmut, the Russian forces continue to conduct offensive operations, and try to take full control of the city of Bakhmut, battles continue. The units of the defense forces of Ukraine repelled about 10 enemy attacks on the indicated section of the front. ➤ During the day, the aviation of the Defense Forces of Ukraine carried out 8 strikes on areas where the occupiers were concentrated. Units of missile troops and artillery hit 2 areas of concentration of manpower, weapons, and military equipment, 1 ammunition depot, 1 position of anti-aircraft defense equipment, and 3 radio-electronic warfare stations of the Russian forces. ➤ The Armed Forces of Ukraine spend three times less ammunition than the Russian army - Washington Post. A Ukrainian military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the publication that even in the face of shortages, the armed forces are firing about 7,700 shells a day, or about one every six seconds. Russia, which may also be at the limits, shoots three times more, according to some estimates.

Losses of the Russian army from 03.04.2023 to 09.04.2023	
Liquidated personnel	3800
Tanks	18
IFVs	38
Artillery systems / MLRS	53/6
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	3
Aircraft / helicopters	2/1
UAVs	63
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	65
Special equipment	13

✓ During the week, Russians launched **24 missiles and 216 air strikes** and fired more than **337 MLRS attacks**.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

Occupiers attacked the oblast by mortars, MLRS, artillery, tanks and UAVs. There are 3 killed and 25 injured. In Kherson, enemy shells hit private houses and apartment buildings. A medical facility, residential buildings, critical infrastructure facilities, apartment buildings, two utility companies, and the territory of the park were damaged. On April 6, Zmiivka village was shelled, explosives were dropped from a drone, 7 people were injured.

On April 7, an ambulance crew came under fire in Beryslav. The medics were on their way to an injured woman, who was in her own house. The ambulance was hit by shrapnel from Russian shells, and two paramedics were injured. Also on this day, the Russians shelled Stanislav. The projectile hit a residential building, broke through the roof and detonated. A mother and her children were injured: a 30-year-old woman, a 10-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy. They were hospitalized in a hospital in Kherson.

Donetsk oblast

The Russians continuously shelled both of the remote settlements of the region and along the entire front line. On the morning of April 2, the Russian forces attacked Kostiantynivka with S-300 missiles and Uragans — 6 people were killed and 9 more injured. 17 high-rise buildings, 18 private houses, a kindergarten, a hospital, and an administrative building were damaged. On April 5, Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka was shelled with cluster munitions — 2 people were killed, and 4 wounded.

Towards Donetsk, Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, Novomykhailivka, Kurakhivka municipality, Hirnyk, Marinka and its community, Heorhiivka, Ocheretyne, and its community, Ukrainske in Selydove community are under fire. The garden cooperative, the House of Culture, the energy infrastructure facility, private and residential buildings, the territory of Avdiivka Coke and Chemical Plant, the administrative building, power lines, and the territory of the former mine were damaged.

Towards Horlivka, Chasiv Yar, Toretsk, Soledar and their communities, Bakhmut, Kostiantynivka, Nykyforivka, Vasiukivka, Minkivka, Fedorivka and Rozdolivka are suffering. The House of Culture, a school, administrative buildings, Administrative Service Center, residential buildings, high-rise buildings, a hospital, a center for registering homeless people, a shop, a cafe, and a kindergarten were damaged.

Towards Lysychansk, Zarichne and Torske of the Lyman community, Siversk, Mykolaivka, Zvanivka, Pereizne, Serebrianka are under fire. Houses, a school, a House of Culture, and a shop were damaged.

Towards Volnova, Prechystivka, Vuhledar, and Bohoyavlenka suffer. In all directions, there are injured and killed.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

Civilian facilities in Zaporizhzhia, Polohy, Orihiv, and Vasylivka regions were under enemy fire. Houses, a shop, a farm, and an agribusiness were damaged. The Russian army increased the intensity of shelling on the front line towards Orihiv, Hulaiapole and Vasylivka. On the night of April 9, an 11-year-old child and her father were killed as a result of shelling of the private sector in Zaporizhzhia. The mother was pulled out from under the rubble and taken to the hospital.

Kharkiv oblast

During the week, the enemy was shelling the border and front-line settlements of Kharkiv (1 killed), Kupiansk (2 wounded), Izium, Chuhuiv, and Bohodukhiv regions. In Kutkivka village, there are 1 killed and 1 wounded. The buildings of an agricultural enterprise in Velykyi Burluk village were damaged. There is one injured in Vovchansk. In Tykhe village, an infrastructural facility and a private household were destroyed. In Odnorobivka village, residential buildings, a garage, and a private car were damaged. In Dovhenke and Bohuslavka villages, private buildings were damaged. A private household was destroyed in Kupiansk. On April 8, the occupiers shelled Kupiansk region. Two men, 65 and 34 years old, were killed in Dvorichna village. In Podoly village, a 65-year-old woman was injured.

Sumy oblast

On the night of April 2, the occupiers fired mortars at a milk truck in Nova Sloboda community. A driver of the milk truck and a freight forwarder were killed. On the night of April 4, the Russians shelled the center of Seredyno-Buda, 3 people were injured. The House of Culture and administration buildings were damaged. The Esman, Velyka Pysarivka, Krasnopillia, Bilopillia, and Seredyno-Buda communities were also under fire. As a result of shelling, Bilopillia community was left without electricity.

Mykolaiv oblast

The enemy continues to terrorize the oblast. The water area of Ochakiv and Kutsurub communities came under artillery and mortar fire. There are 2 injured, 1 of them is in bad condition. Houses, shops, and civil infrastructure were damaged.

Odesa oblast

On the night of April 4, 13 kamikaze drones were shot down over the oblast. One of the enterprises was hit. No casualties.

Chernihiv oblast

On April 4, the Russians dropped two aerial bombs on Pecheniuhy village in Chernihiv oblast from two Su-35 aircraft. A private house and outbuildings were damaged.

This week shelling and strikes

Donetsk oblast



The week of shelling
03-09.04.2023



Humanitarian crisis

03.04

- According to **UNESCO**, Russian aggression has caused **\$2.6 billion in damage to Ukraine's cultural sites**. Kharkiv oblast suffered the most from the war in Ukraine, with **30% of its cultural property damaged**. In total, the damage, which includes loss of income from tourism, art, sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural education, and creative and cultural industries, is estimated at approximately \$15.2 billion.
- A **Russian military man** who took part in special raids in Irpin, Kyiv oblast, and abused civilians **will be tried in Ukraine**. The investigation found that in March 2022, a senior rifleman of the reconnaissance platoon of the 104th Guards Air Assault Regiment of the Red Banner, together with other Russian military personnel, conducted special raids in the town of Irpin, during which they threatened and injured civilians.
- Residents of the **temporarily occupied regions of the Zaporizhzhia oblast** are being subjected to 'screening checks' by the occupying forces. Even though this territory was seized more than a year ago, Russians continue to repress the local population. Reports indicate that there were a **number of abductions** with people being taken to torture cells without explanation. Their relatives are not informed for a long time about the whereabouts of the prisoners.

04.04

- 17-year-old **Bohdan Yermokhin**, who was taken by Russian soldiers from Mariupol to Donetsk and then placed with a foster family in Russia, tried to return to Ukraine on his own and reached Belarus, where he was detained and returned to Russia. Yermokhin has a sister in Ukraine and is a citizen of Ukraine. Therefore, **his forced transfer to Russia is not a 'rescue' but a crime**.
- Odesa received a UNESCO certificate of inclusion of the city's historic center to the World Heritage List.
- A **dam near Kramatorsk**, Donetsk oblast, failed to withstand the flow of water after heavy snowfall, as a result, **~260 houses on 30 streets were flooded**. The State Emergency Service rescued 5 people, including two children aged 8 and 10, two elderly women, and a man with a disability. A total of 17 people were evacuated.
- 15 Russian military men are set to **stand trial for ill-treatment of civilians** in the then-occupied (now liberated) village of **Yahidne** in Chernihiv oblast. In March 2022, Russian forces **forcibly held 368 people in the basement** of a school **for a month**. There, people who felt sick could not even lie down due to the lack of space and air. And if they did manage to do so, they were inevitably kicked by someone trying to get to the buckets that were used as toilets in the rooms, or when the Russians did let the people go outside. As a result of these inhumane conditions and the failure to provide necessary medical care, **10 civilians died**.
- Russians are using representatives of public utility services to **move their military personnel into apartments** and houses that have been temporarily **abandoned by Ukrainian citizens**. Such actions are being carried out under the guise of preventive checks of meter readings by utility companies.
- **Forced evacuation of children** was announced in 21 settlements of **Donetsk oblast**. It is planned to evacuate 126 children. Five evacuation crews of the White Angels police are working in the oblast, they will take the children away in armored vehicles. Evacuated children accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian will be provided with free shelter, social guarantees, humanitarian aid, and psychological support.
- The World Bank estimates that the full range of **humanitarian demining in Ukraine will cost \$37.4 billion**. Over the past month, 724 people have been injured by Russian mines, 226 of them killed. Recently, it became known that Russians are mining the fields of occupied Zaporizhzhia oblast.
- The National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption has added **24,000 people** to the list of sponsors and those involved in the war waged by Russia. A separate part of this project is the international register of war sponsors, which includes international companies still operating in Russia.

05.04

- In the occupied territories of Zaporizhzhia oblast, Russians do not allow farmers without Russian passports to start sowing. Russia is seeking to increase the rate of **forced passportisation in the region** at any cost.
- For the first time, a judge who deported Crimeans from the temporarily occupied Crimea was convicted in Ukraine. It is noted that since 2014, she has made court decisions on the **forced deportation of more than 20 local residents** from Crimea.
- The Defense Council of Kherson oblast has banned families with children from entering settlements that suffer from constant Russian shelling. These are villages, towns, settlements, and cities of the Kherson and Beryslav regions located on the coast.
- Russian invaders continue to actively **destroy the natural potential of the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories**. Since the beginning of the occupation, Russian companies have organized timber logging in Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, and other temporarily occupied oblasts of Ukraine. At the same time, entrepreneurs are carrying out uncontrolled **deforestation**, which, if continued, will inevitably lead to **catastrophic consequences for the environment**. Hanna Maliar, Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine, says that Most of the forests in this region are of artificial origin and were specially created to protect against wind, soil, and water erosion, serving as recreational and reclamation plantations.

06.04

- The Office of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights states that at least 2,500 Ukrainians who were in prison and remained in the occupied territories were taken to the Russian Federation. The Ombudsman's Office has documented the facts that the Russians are trying to mobilize them into illegal military groups, in particular, the Wagner Group.
- Russia is abusing its presidency of the UN Security Council. A number of countries view **Russia's invitation to Maria Lvova-Belova**, whose arrest warrant was issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague on suspicion of committing war crimes, including the forced deportation of Ukrainian children from the occupied territories, **to speak at a meeting dedicated to Ukrainian children as a deliberate provocation**. Representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Albania, and Malta boycotted the speech of the Russian Children's Commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova via video link at an informal meeting of the UNSC on Wednesday, 5 April, **while 50 countries condemned Russia's** abuse of its temporary status as the country's presidency of the Security Council. Earlier, the UK had demanded that the event not be broadcast on the official channel on the UN website.
- In the evening of April 6, masked Russians broke into one of the premises of the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia NPP and **took away four employees** of the plant's physical protection service. According to Energoatom, the nuclear workers were **taken away in an unknown direction**, and their whereabouts remain unknown.

07.04

- In Kyiv oblast, almost **85% of the damaged electricity infrastructure** and almost all boiler houses have been **restored** since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion.
- The Russian occupiers in Mariupol have begun dismantling the railway station and private houses to build a large logistics hub, according to their claim. However, it is believed that they are actually **demolishing houses to hide their war crimes**. It has also been reported that the Russian forces are planning to settle their military and officials in hundreds of private houses in the city.
- The occupiers are **laying mines towards Zaporizhzhia and near Energodar**, posing a significant danger to those staying in the forests near the city and in the territories of the Kakhovka reservoir.
- Ukraine offered Russia to **exchange prisoners of war who profess Islam** on an 'all for all' basis on the occasion of the start of **Ramadan**. However, Russia has refused the offer.

